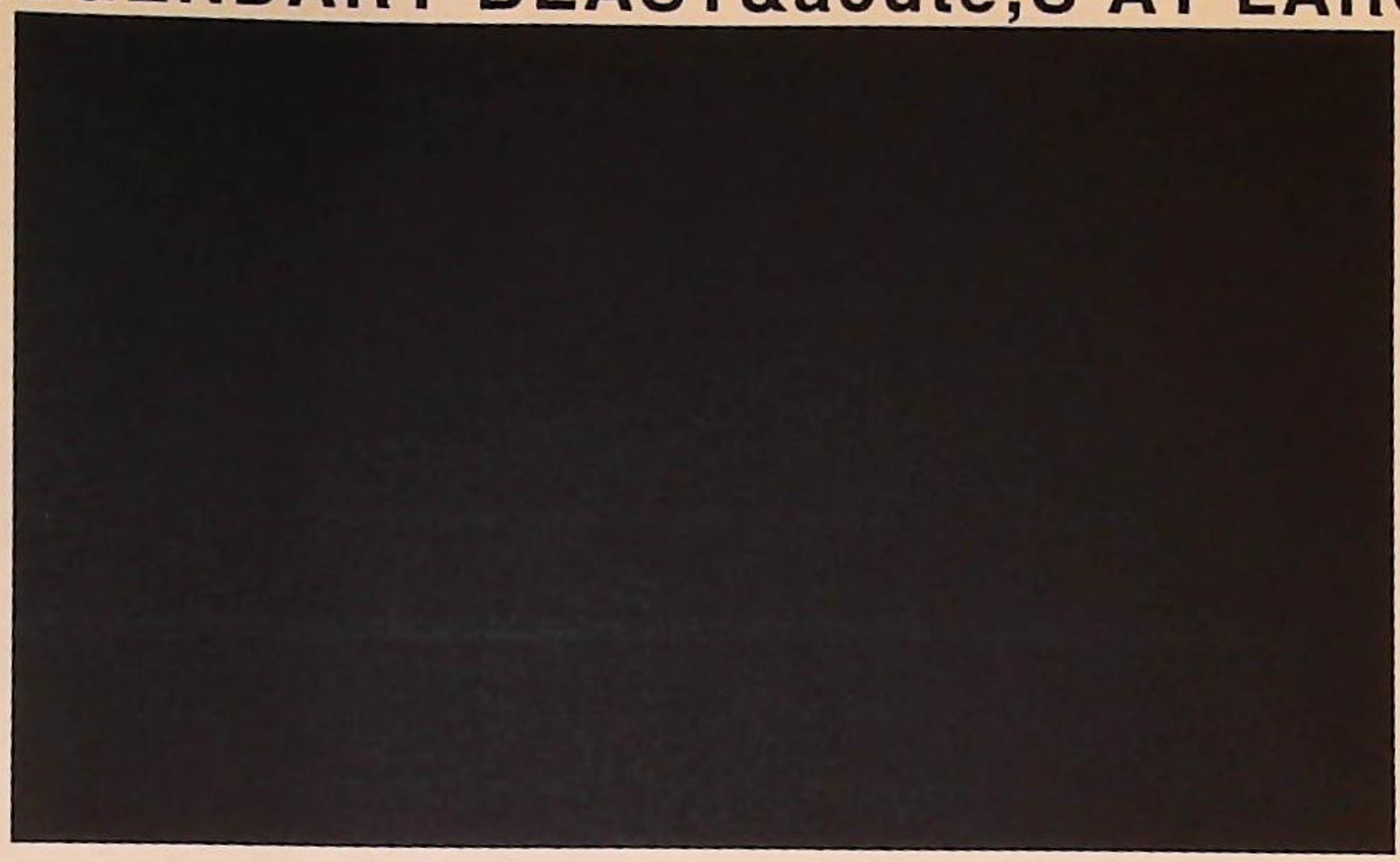
Europe:

LEGENDARY BEAST´S AT LARGE

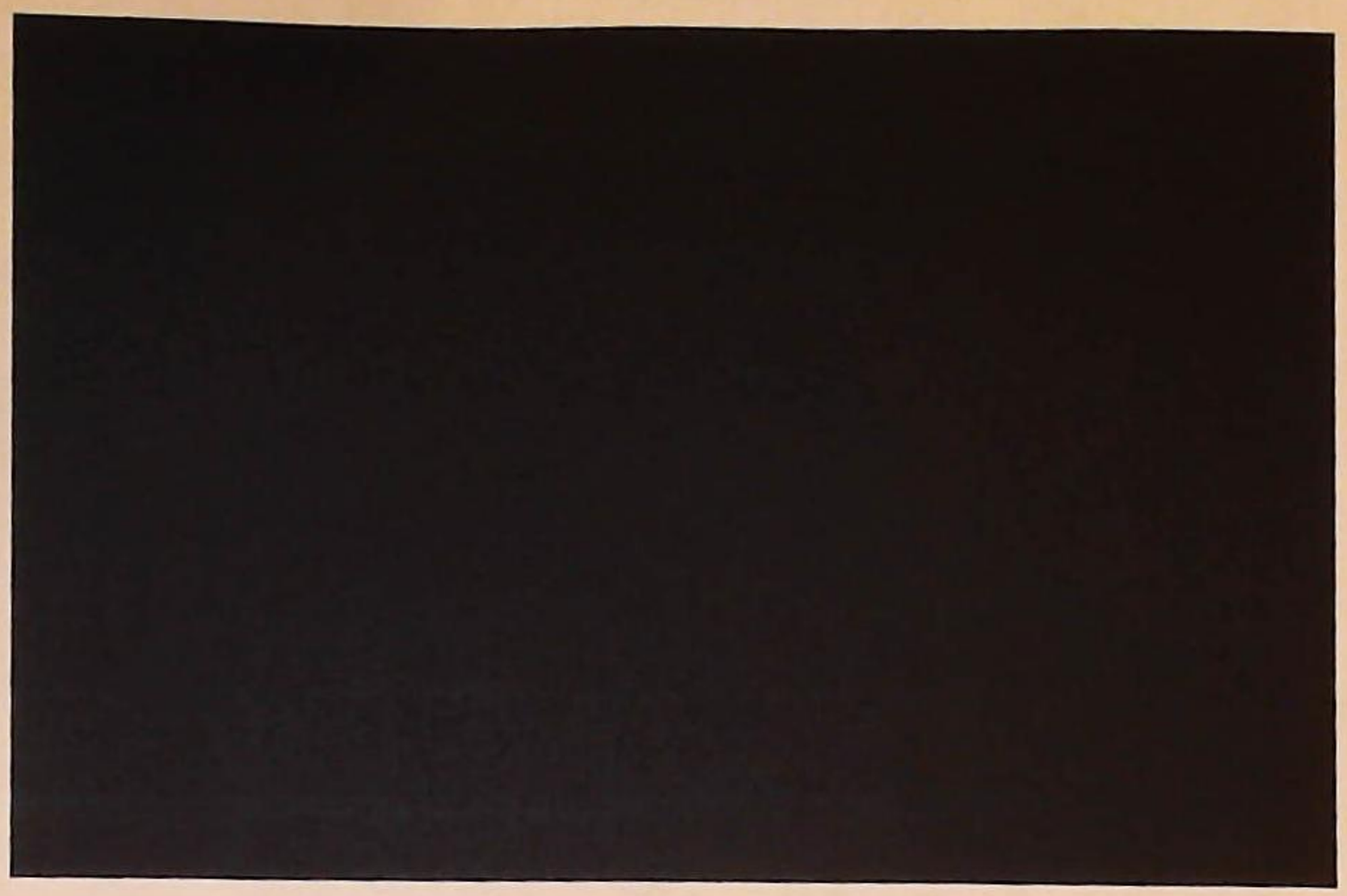


Whenever you come to Austria, visit Klagenfurt, the capital of Carinthia. There you will find the famous Lindwurm monument, which was errected by Ulrich Vogelsang in 1590. Although it represents a dragon, it can be regarded as the first palaeontological reconstructic

In 1335 the cranium of a wooly rhinoceros from the ice-age was foun in a gravel pit near Klagenfurt. It was instantly interpreted as the s of a dragon or Lindwurm. This fossil, which is still at exhibition at Landesmuseum für Kärnten, served as a model for the head of the Lindwurm.

However, the legend of a dragon haunting the surroundings of Klagen is much older. The name of the town can be read as "ford of lament". Floods repeatedly destroyed the crossings over the river Glan and ma persons lost their lives.

In medieval times floods and debris flows were commonly depicted a dragons. Thus the idea arose, that a water dragon is responsible for the letal accidents near the river Glan. The finding of the rhino-skull enhanced that belief.



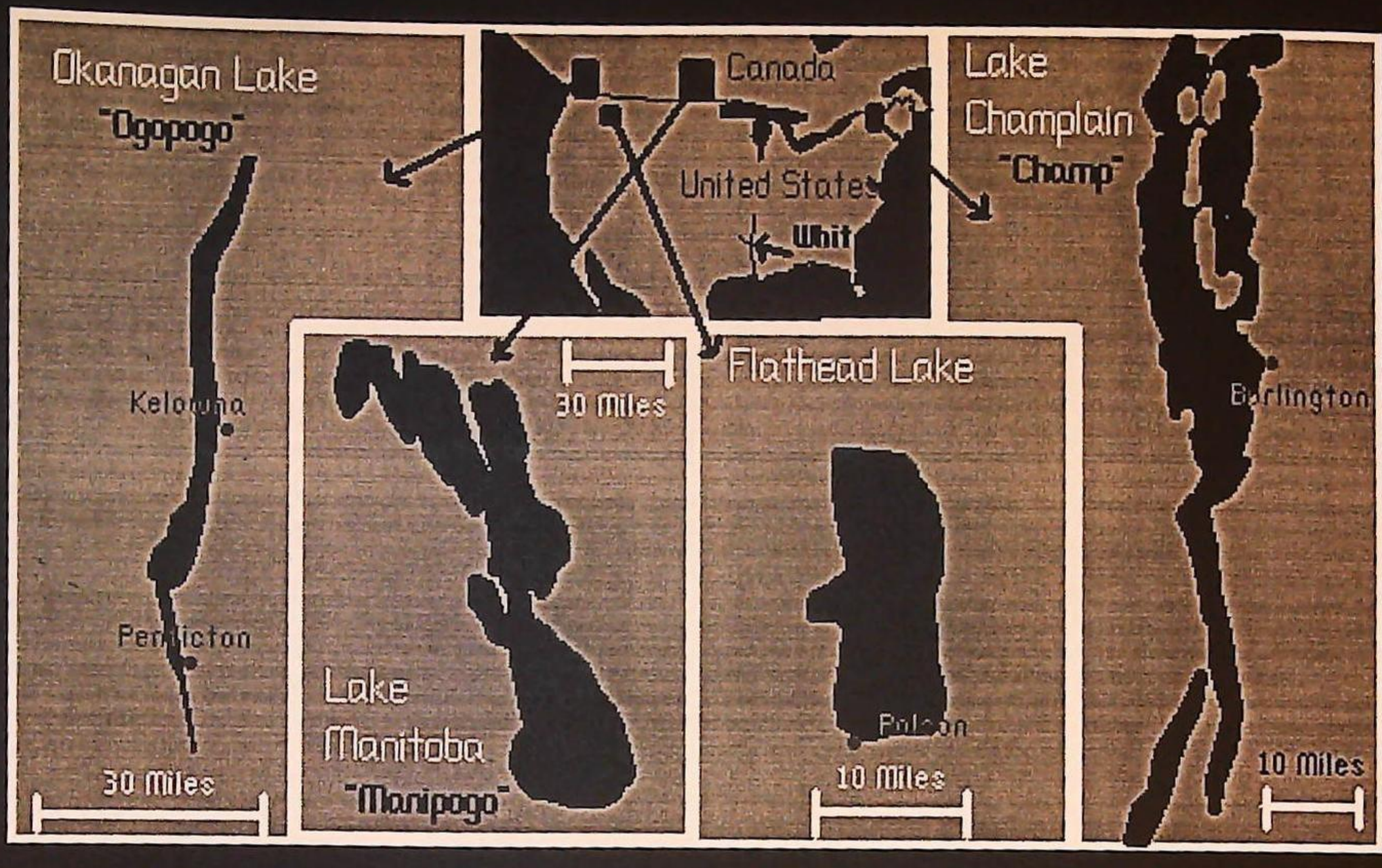
Long time ago a huge monster emerged from the sea and chose the riv Rhone as its new home. It was a dragoness, half land mammal, half fis She outsized twelve elephants, had teeth like swords and a skin like iron. Her father was the water dragon Leviathan, her mother the giant snake Onachus, and her name was Tarasque.

Wherever the beast appeared, she brought terror and destruction. All animals fled her. She destroyed houses, and her breath was flames. Ma heroes tried to kill her, and perished.

After seven years of ravage a farmer found the skin of the dragoness and considered her dead. But every seven years the Tarasque hat to slough, and the farmer had only found her cast-off skin.

Seven more years went by. The Tarasque had destroyed all bridges and devoured everyone who wanted to cross the river. At last the inhabitants of the troubled area tried to lure the dragonness into a t Near the town Avignon there was a deep swamp. Whoever got there wa lost. So they bound animals to trees near the trail leading to the swamp. The beast followed this line of prey. But when she approached the trap, she turened around and fled back to the river: The swamp belonged to the realm of the devil, and being a creature of the devil herself, the Tarasque was warned.

the power of the cross and the holy water. St. Martha led the beast to the town, where it was killed. The citizens errected a new church in honor of St. Martha, and the town changed its name to Tarascon.


Okanagan Lake
"Ogopogo"
Kelowna
Penticton
30 Miles
Canada
United States
Whit
Lake
Champlain
"Champ"
Burlington
10 Miles
30 Miles
Lake
Manitoba
"Manipogo"
Flathead Lake
10 Miles